

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE:
Twelve months, \$1.00.
Six months, .60c.
Three months, .35c.

TEMPERANCE PEOPLE MEET.

There was quite a large crowd of the temperance people met in Robertson's Hall here Monday to take steps toward having the county court order a local option election. An organization was formed with Rev. G. R. Daugherty as president and the active work of circulating petitions will begin. The Kicker was not present but noticed some of our "best people" taking an active part.

This trip our "best people" and "most prominent business men" will be found in the forefront of the battle against the liquor traffic. Four years ago, when the saloons were in control, they "couldn't afford to." But they are going with the crowd—when they can't hold it back—and take a position in front. They must either lead—or else they won't play. And as a guide they always have a dollar-mark in front of them.

The Kicker will enjoy the scrap and watch the organ scuffle about trying to please both its "wet" and "dry" stockholders. As for us "undesirable citizens," it won't matter whether "the interests" govern us through the saloon or the church.

Only this week we find the churches of our "best people" closed to a young lady who is trying to teach the people "Why Christians Should Be Socialists." At Oran and Vanduser Miss Hollowell could not speak because the churches and school houses were closed to her. At Morley the churches refused her admission and she spoke at the hall. But last fall, when Rev. "Money-to-Learn-at-6c" Lee, of Sikeston, started out to spell-bind for the Democrats, churches, schoolhouses and halls were thrown open to him. If our "best people" keep on, the masses will discover that the same influences that control the press also control the churches and schools.

But it is different among the work people of Edna and the farmers of the rural districts. The "best people" insist that they want to politics discussed in their churches. And I want the work people to keep an eye on the local option fight that is just opening. If the liquor problem is not a political question, what is it? And when the goody-goody crowd assemble at their churches to discuss this question, let the working-class members insist that there shall be "no politics in the church." Then watch the fireworks.

Four years ago the temperance people could not hire a lawyer in the county to oppose a saloon petition. They had to import lawyers from Charleston or elsewhere. But there has been a change—not in the lawyers nor our "best people," but in public sentiment. Hence there is every reason to believe that the saloons will be voted out. And while the Kicker and nearly all Socialists will cast their votes against the saloon, yet they are aware that they are voting for a makeshift—the clipping of a twig while the root and trunk of capitalist iniquity is left standing. The saloon is not the greatest evil we have to contend with. The landlord and tenant system makes more people homeless than the saloon. But where would our preachers and reformers stand on that proposition? The private ownership of the means of production and distribution breeds more poverty than the liquor traffic. But your "best people" want no change. Nor will they agree to an intelligent solution of the liquor traffic. Take the profit out of it and the saloon will close of its own accord. Then, if the people wanted to abolish the manufacture of the stuff, they could do it—and there would be no private interests to oppose them. But they don't want that. It would be effective and they would soon run around for an "ishoo"—something to keep the people quarreling. For the past eight years there has been no issue dividing the two great parties—not even a minor issue of sufficient importance to interest the people. But the liquor question can always be depended on to stir up a row—and that is why it has been kept before us.

So long as "the interests" can make the people believe that the saloon is the cause of all our ills, and keep us quarreling over that, they know we will not discover the real bug under the chip. There is no liquor problem in India. They are the most temperate people on

earth. Yet they are the poorest and the most miserable, because the English lords own their land and make them "divide up" their products—just as our lords do here.

THEN AND NOW.

You older men who were here during chattel slavery can, no doubt, remember of having read notices in the newspapers offering for sale a "strong buck" or an "active wench." I have seen these notices reproduced in the papers as curiosities, and I only wish I had one to reproduce for you—just to show you the system in operation fifty years ago. But we have something just as good. Read the following, from the last issue of the Fredericktown Democrat-News:

"Sealed bids will be received by the undersigned clerk of the county court of Madison county, Mo., up to February 1, 1909 at 12 m., for the care and keeping of the following named county charges to-wit: Rebecca Brown, Matilda Sans, Mrs. Golden. Bids are to be for a period of one year. Particulars can be obtained by calling on the county clerk. The County Court reserves the right to reject any and all bids. Address bids to J. M. White, county clerk, and endorse thereon 'Bids for County Paupers.'"

J. M. WHITE,
County Clerk.

Fifty years from now the present system will be a thing of the past, and your grand-children will be as much amazed at our inhumanity as we are at the inhumanity of the slave-driver of fifty years ago. Study the above advertisement, please! Three women, perhaps through no fault of their own, are to be let to the lowest bidder! The chattel slave had at least the advantage of being considered of some value and was let to the highest bidder.

And what assurance have you that the "system" will not place your mother, your sister, or even yourself on the auction block to be let to the lowest bidder—in the same way as Rebecca Brown, Matilda Sans and Mrs. Golden?

Ye Gods! And we call this a Christian civilization!

CIRCUIT COURT GRIND.

Circuit court convened Monday and will probably be in session all of next week, when several criminal cases will probably be tried. Four men in jail paid guilty Monday and received sentences as follows:

John F. Wynne, obtaining money under false pretenses, two years.
Brady Martin, grand larceny, two years.
Ben Welch, attempt to ravish, two years.
Jack Phillips, perjury, four years.

The time of the court this week has been taken up chiefly by civil cases—railroad cases and petty quarrels among neighbors. No one is being benefited except the lawyers and the officials. It is pathetic to see the poor devils skinned. But, then, they want it so—else it wouldn't be. They vote "equality before the law"—and get it. All are skinned alike.

DECEMBER TAX RECEIPTS.

The December tax collections for 1908 smashed all records. Collector Christman handed the Kicker the following as the amounts paid the state and county treasurers for the month of December:

County revenue, \$29,153.34
Road revenue, 4,323.04
School revenue, 43,792.91
State revenue, 8,570.03
Ditch taxes, 22,523.26
Total, 99,362.60

This amount exceeds the collections for December, 1907, \$32,870.69. The collector accounts for the difference in the increase in ditch taxes and the increase in property values of the county. The statement for December, 1907, shows as follows:

County revenue, \$14,721.28
Road revenue, 2,480.73
School revenue, 28,588.22
State revenue, 6,256.27
Ditch taxes, 14,445.41
Total, 66,491.91

The total collections for the year will not be known until March. But, then, we are paying some taxes.

PUBLIC SALE.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1909.
At my farm, 1 1/2 miles north of Oran, on the Oran and Chaffee road, I will sell 6 work mules, 6 mules, coming two years old, 2 horse colts and a mare colt, coming two years old, sired by Egyptian Boy, a suckling horse and 2 mule colts, coming one year old, 2 brood mares, one in foal, a fine Kentucky saddle and driving horse, 17 head of shoats, about 800 bushels of corn, about 100 bales of hay, a buggy, a surry, a Rumley threshing outfit, nearly new, with 20-horsepower engine, 4 wagons, 2 cultivators, 3 harrows, plows, harness and many other articles.

TERMS:—\$5.00 and under, cash; over \$5 a credit of six months will be given, purchaser giving 8% note with approved security. If promptly paid at maturity no interest will be charged.

(11-4.) FRANK L. HEISSENER

MISS HOLLOWELL HERE.

Miss Carrie Hollowell, the Socialist lecturer, is in the county and will address the people at various points on "Why Christians should be Socialists." The editor attended her lecture at Morley Wednesday night. The city hall was packed to the doors with men, women, and children and so impressed were the people with Miss Hollowell's delivery and earnestness of purpose that they had her lecture again on the following afternoon. Thursday night she lectured at Hickory Grove church, Friday night, Jan. 22 at the Baptist church at Edna; and at Pleasant Valley church, Saturday night, Jan. 23.

Don't miss hearing her.

HEAD US BLAMED FOOLS!

No doubt you have heard of the fellow who yoked himself up with his calf in order to "break" it to the yoke. As they were coming down the road heister-skelter the man was yelling: "Head us d-d fools! We're running away."

The Kicker has yoked up with the farmers and is about in the same fix. The total subscriptions for the month of January, 1907, were 164. Up to writing this, 130 subscriptions have been received—only 34 short of the full month last year. We have more than a week to work in. What would the "best people" say if we should exceed the limit of last year? All you have to do is to keep up the present gait and we'll do it. The subscriptions received since last issue are:

Commerce.—George Buck, Henry Shwitz, T. J. Pool, H. Wahl, Jacob Diebold, Jos. Strack, Jos. Hahn, Frank Messmer, Walter Seabaugh.

Benton.—T. J. Ditterline, Mary House, W. A. Harrison, Seth Rapp, James Rapp, J. C. Holmes, V. L. Harris, Mrs. Charity Adams, Morley.—O. L. Gregory, J. N. Grant, T. L. Strayhorn, Grant Ragains, F. A. Griggs, R. K. Griggs, Kelso.—Jos. Goshe, Phil. Schaefer, John Sailer, Phil. Georger, Joe F. Diebold, John Biattel.

Oran.—W. P. Glascock, M. W. ner, J. E. Jolly, Joe Burger, Frank Heisserer.

New Hamburg.—John Schlitt, L. W. Bucher, N. Dannenmueller, Blodgett.—Mrs. Joe Hutchason, S. H. Hampton, Jeff. Smith, Mrs. Jane Peal, J. S. Peal.

Fornell.—Robt. Messmer, Geo. Buhs, Vine Lauck.

Ilmo.—John Carlson, Tillie Hilleman Sewell.

Bleda.—John F. Schitter, F. J. Amrhein.

Chaffee.—Wm. Pfeifferkorn, C. H. Osborne, J. W. Heeb.

Olney, Ill.—G. B. Murray, Jos. Witt.

Beil City.—August Schlitt, Vanduser.—Jos. Utzage.

Rockview.—Jos. Bles.

Adolph Schrader, Ruma, Ill.; Dr. E. B. Curd, Hazel, Ky.

HERE AND YONDER.

Oh, yes! I forgot to tell you last week that the Federal Supreme court had put the lid on that \$29,000,000 fine assessed against the Standard Oil Co., by Judge Landis, for keeps. Seeing that the people are on to the fact that Attorney-General Bonaparte is sloshing around and proposes to bring a new suit. Three months ago the Kicker said that, for fifteen cents, it would assume all the responsibility of the fine assessed against Rockefeller. How much longer will it take the people to see that the trusts ARE the government?

In the territories where local option fights are on the "wet" papers are making much ado over the statement of the Ilmo Headlight that there was no disturbance during the holidays in either Ilmo or Edna—although there are saloons in both towns. The Headlight might have gone further and said that the workingmen of those towns are nearly all Socialists who read good, clean literature and therefore are not saturated with the filth and crime that appears in the capitalist dailies.

John Essner, son of Mr. and Mrs. Adam Essner, came up from Dallas, Tex., Saturday. Sunday their daughter, Mrs. Charles Walter, of Ance, arrived, and Mr. Essner took the whole family—nine in all—to Cape Girardeau to have their pictures taken while he had them all together.

J. T. Huey, of Blodgett, writes: "The Kicker is well worth one dollar to me and I want it to keep coming. Tell everybody in your paper that I can't do without it."

The Kicker has some very pretty calendars for its patrons. When you come to Benton, don't fail to get one. If you can't come yourself, send by a neighbor who may be coming.

The county farmers' union will meet at Benton, Tuesday Feb. 9.

FROM CLAYPOOL.

There will be an entertainment and pie supper at Claypool School-house on Feb. 5. Proceeds for the benefit of the library.

Mrs. W. C. Marshall visited her daughter, Mrs. Milton Cope, near Blodgett Tuesday.

J. Scoggins, of Mayfield, Ky., is visiting his daughter, Mrs. Ambrose Turner.

Noah Tippy, who has been visiting relatives at Malden, returned home Sunday.

Church at Silent Hill every second Sunday.

FROM NEW HAMBURG.

A young lady stopped at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Burger Saturday. She was baptized Sunday. Andy Hoefler and Miss Regina Leible stood as sponsors at the baptism.

Mr. Offeline, of St. Louis, a cousin of Mrs. Dennis Grasser, is visiting here and having a time killing rabbits. Dennis said that during the snow last week they killed 200.

On account of the bad weather the Farmers' Union postponed their meeting until some time in February, when it will be held in Benton.

What was the matter with the Kelso and Schererille correspondents last week. Were they hunting rabbits?

Saturday the house and lot of the late Josephine Gosche was sold. It was bought by John Morrie for \$605.

August Schlitt, of Bell City, attended the funeral of John Heisserer at Benton Friday.

Chas. Diebold visited at John Allen's east of Kelso Friday.

This weather is certainly bad on the Sunday "night riders."

Barney Schuemer is visiting in Perry county.

FROM STUMPTOWN.

The Stumptown natives turned out Monday to attend court at Chaffee. They were interested in the cases of Mrs. Mary Skidmore vs. J. J. Lee and John Brennen, Jr. vs. J. J. Lee, in which our neighbor lost both.

Aaron Culbertson left for his home in Illinois Tuesday and C. F. Tohill, who has been visiting his parents, left for the same state Monday.

August Gosche, of Oran, was hauling logs to Chaffee this week for a veneering company in Indianapolis, Ind.

A. J. Tohill went to Oran Tuesday for four for the Chaffee Mercantile Co.

Andy Lee, of Oran, has been visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Lee.

Miss Josie Lee, of Chaffee, is visiting her father, J. J. Lee.

Jeff Painter was over in Stoddard county last week.

FROM BLEDA.

The United States Health and Accident Insurance Co. was introduced here last week by two men from St. Louis. They wrote up 14.

A stork passed through this part of the county on the 13th and left a boy with Jeff Slinkard, Joe Gerest and Will Schott.

Four wild hogs were killed during the snow, in Hubble Creek bottoms.

F. J. Amrhein and family visited at Rockview last week.

Mrs. W. A. Calhoun visited at Sikeston Sunday.

A dance was given at Joe Halter's last week.

Andy Amrhein and mother are reported better.

Game suffered here during the snow.

FROM KELSO.

The bad weather has made the attendance at the public school very small. But is getting better now.

Father Kline is to start on a tour through the Old Country some time this week.

John Allen had a sale on the 14th, closing out his stock and machinery.

Sleigh riding has been the leading business since the snow.

The youngest child of A. L. Drury has been quite sick.

F. P. Hazard went to Chaffee Monday.

FROM ROCKVIEW.

Our boys sure made the rabbits and raccoons suffer during the snow. Willie and Tommie Belk were the winners. They killed 20 rabbits the first day.

Born to J. J. Bles and wife Thursday of last week, a fine boy. Joe says he will be a fox hunter.

Frank Felden and Robert Carroll were at Cape Girardeau Wednesday of last week.

Frank Combs loaded a car of hickory shafts and cross bars Saturday.

Nick Menz has gone to Puxico again to work at saw-milling.

Fred Haynes moved from Lost Hill to Chaffee Saturday.

FROM SCHERERVILLE.

Ed. Hahn says that salt is not the thing to catch rabbits with. He says snuff and cayenne pepper is the stuff. All you have to do to get them is to give them the snuff and when they begin to sneeze you can hold them and pepper them to your hearts content.

Robert Messmer walked over from Edna Monday to attend a party at Joseph Hahn's. Robert says he is still staying with the folks at the round house.

Last week was ball week. On Thursday there was a dance at Frank Westrich's and Louis Westrich gave one on Saturday.

Wendolin Scherer hauled his wheat to Benton Saturday and J. P. Biattel took his to Ance.

Fred Scherer, of St. Louis, spent the week with the family of Jos. Hahn.

A child was born to Mr. and Mrs. John B. Scherer last week.

FROM BLODGETT.

The days that delight the small boys have just passed. Rabbits have been so plentiful in this vicinity that it was an easy matter to kill them with a stick. Doubtless, the frying pans will get a rest until the next snow falls, when again the brush piles will be guarded by the boys and dogs. It is reported that one hunter here killed twenty-four rabbits in one day last week. At that rate the rabbits will soon be as scarce as the poor Indians.

Rev. Pig of Kentucky arrived here Monday to conduct a revival. We expect to hear some good sermons.

Mrs. Charles Beardsley, who was called to Caruthersville by the death of her father, returned last week.

William Stobaugh, who is working on a dredge boat near Vanduser, is visiting relatives here.

Miss Watts, of Farmington, was the guest of her sister, Mrs. C. L. Stubbs, last week.

Miss Iola Lee, of East Prairie, is visiting her sister, Mrs. Walter Lemons.

Mrs. Jane Peal was at Sikeston Wednesday of last week.

Miss Stella Jones spent Saturday and Sunday in Sikeston.

Mr. Morgan moved to East Prairie Monday.

Marshal Kemp was sick last week.

FROM PORTER'S SWITCH.

One of our industrious farmers was seen plowing the other day in the snow. We have heard it said that the early bird catches the worm.

Considerable moving has been done around here. It seems that fully one-third of the people have either changed places or moved off.

Miss Nellie Woods and pupils, of the White Oak school, visited Mr. Rucker and scholars, of the Misdelfeld school, Friday afternoon.

We have had the coldest spell of weather for the last week that we have had this winter. Wood and coal are now in demand.

Mr. and Mrs. Will Holmes are the proud parents of a fine boy which arrived on the 17th.

Hog-killing is the order of the day. Bill Sigler killed some fine ones Monday.

Henry Sherer returned from Arkansas Friday, the 19th, with a wife.

John Collins, of Blodgett, has moved back to this neighborhood. Health is very good in this neighborhood.

FROM SAVANAH.

Charles Hutchason and wife, of Sikeston, were in this vicinity last week.

R. D. Puckett, who has been very ill, is improving.

There was preaching at Moore's Chapel Sunday.

FROM COMMERCE.

C. Bondurant, M. Stroud, T. J. Pool and Rev. Denton and Mesdames C. F. DeWint, C. Bondurant, M. Stroud, A. J. Smith, W. Dodge, T. J. Pool, Denton, E. I. Matthews and Clara Anderson and Misses Virgie and Jessie Anderson and Belle and Bertie Gaither were in Benton Monday to attend a meeting of the county temperance unions and begin a fight for local option in the county.

Miss Georgia Cannon, who has been visiting here for the past two weeks, returned to her home at Benton Saturday.

W. J. Worsley and wife left Tuesday to spend the winter in Las Cruces, N. Mex., and Southwestern Texas.

A. N. Ireland and wife returned home from St. Louis Thursday, after a few days visit there.

Joe Ellis is our postmaster pro tem. Chas. Heuchan, our postmaster, is in St. Louis.

Mr. and Mrs. Boyd have returned home after a two weeks' visit in Kentucky.

Mrs. Palmer and daughter, of Cape Girardeau, were here Monday. Victor Pierce and wife, of Cape Girardeau, were here this week.

B. W. McCrillis, the insurance man, and his wife are in St. Louis.

W. B. Anderson was down from St. Louis last week.

Miss Grace DeWint is sick.

FROM MACEDONIA.

Tom Griggs, of Morley, is visiting relatives here.

Gus Mienz of Stoddard county is visiting at H. V. Mienz's.

Miss Rose Garvey is staying at Commerce.

FROM CROOKED CREEK.

Mrs. T. C. Blankenship, of St. Louis, returned home Sunday, after a month's visit with her sister, Mrs. Arthur Clymer.

Mr. and Mrs. Ira Wright, of District No. 6, visited Mrs. Wright's mother, Mrs. Bob Butler, Saturday and Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Phil. Gibbs, of Fayetteville, Ill., visited homefolks this week.

Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Reynolds, of Commerce, visited here last week.

Mrs. Gibbs is sick at the home of her brother, A. J. Penn.

Miss Ethel Rochell was at Commerce Monday.

The Farmers' Union meets Saturday night.

A Newspaper

May be of benefit to the people of a community, and it may be

AN INJURY

Depending entirely upon the point of view. Some newspapers regard a few selfish and useless citizens as

"THE PEOPLE,"

But the Kicker is not of THAT CLASS. It regards the useful citizens—the workers—as the people and believes that when the producers are

PROSPEROUS AND HAPPY

All is well and the goose hangs high. If this be your idea, patronize

The Kicker.

FROM MORLEY.

Wm. Hollick, living near Ward's, has a fine nine-pound plow-boy stopping at his house. The young fellow arrived Sunday.

The mill, which has been shut down for some time, will now run regularly. It was recently sold to John Dillon.

The revival meeting at the Baptist Church closed Sunday night. There were four additions.

Black Atherton killed a catamount below town a few days ago.

Pres. Emerson had a "hog killing time" Monday—killing ten.

Albert Fant is improving the place which he lately bought.

Rev. J. L. Howle went to Ellis Grove, Ill., this week.

Owing to the recent cold weather, business is very dull.

Two Mr. Porters from Illinois will move to Morley.

During the snow everybody was able to eat rabbits.

Hazel Rood visited her aunt at Benton Saturday.

Geo. Howle was at Barlow, Ky., last week.

FROM CROWDER.

Moving is the order of the day. Claude Marshall has moved back to the farm; Charley Winfrey has moved to Vanduser, and Charley Mansell has moved to Indiana Spur.

The Crowder Milling Co. is preparing to furnish the public with meal or feed stuff on short notice.

Mrs. Minnie Lile, of Bugg Ridge, visited Mrs. Cora Hulin Thursday of last week.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Joe Strong on Wednesday of last week, a fine boy.

Jess Denbow was at Sikeston last week.

FROM MULLIN'S ISLAND.

Virgil Stacey and James S'Barger had a runaway last week which was very bad on a buggy, but fortunately no one was hurt.

Willie Sullenger killed a large catamount last week. Some of our hunters ran three out of one log pile.

Charles S'Barger, who has been in poor health for several months, is reported worse.

Dave and Oscar and Miss Effie Mize visited relatives on Bugg Ridge, Sunday.

FROM ROOTWAD.

J. W. Harvey has returned from Kentucky, where he has been visiting his mother.

Drew Merrick, of New Madrid, will move on Big Gun Ridge.

There will be a box supper at Tanner's Friday night.

Coleman Gray and Lewis Dabbs went to Kentucky last week.

PUBLIC SALE.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 1909.
At my place, 4 miles east of Benton and 1 1/2 miles north of Cary, on Commerce and Charleston road, I will sell, two head of horses, a mule, sow and pigs, two wagons, two buggies with harness, two 2-horse plows, one single plow, cultivator, harness, fifty bushels of corn, about seventy bales of hay, six dozen chickens—some full-stock, single-comb; brown leghorns, a 100-egg incubator and brooder, household and kitchen furniture and many other articles.